Wisc Hist-Society

Dear Burdette W. Eagon
Univesity of Wisconsin
Stevens Point, Wisc. 54481

9/4/80

Dear Buddy,

This is a story that begins with coincidences, so I report them for your understanding, perhaps entertainment and appreciation of the bottom line - that you can get some Korean War records the state society requested without getting a response.

I was in Georgetown University Hospital for tests to determine whether surgery is indicated for arterial blockages located as an outpatient. I return for the surgery on the 15th. My doctor told me to walk for at least a non-stop hour each day, even if it hurts, and when it hurts, to stop and rest. Well, I had four hours to the time I had a ride home so I decided to see how much walking I could do. I walked all the way down town from there, listening to a transistor radio I'd taken to the hospital.

My rendezvous was one block past the DC offices of CBS News, so I decided to stop in and visit with an old friend if he were in, George Herman. He wasn't, so I asked that he be given the message that I'd just stopped by to say hello. Having also heard the crazy Oswald exhumation story while walking, I also asked for the reporter on that story, Jim McManus, to explain to him how crazy it is. He also was not in so I left word for him to phone me if he had any interest. The two messages got consolidated into one, and George Herman just phoned me to ask me about the story I had in mind for him.

We got to chatting, as old friends do, and as we did I was reminded of this a.m.'s story on the legislation to make it a criminal offense to expose FBI and CIA misdeeds if it includes identification of even officially disclosed informers. As we talked about this I was reminded of a story in my files out there, copies of some of which I still have, indicating that the SDS-Greenwich Village bombing in which several people were killed was arranged by an FBI informer and that if the law is passed and I print it I go to jail, even though the FBI has been sitting on the story of its own involvement for years and through criminal charges. George will pass that on to others. But when I told him that my originals are out there it reminded him of the request for his records mentioned above.

I then told him why I picked Stevens Point when the society asked me, encouraged him to

look with favor on the request and on Wisconsin, and perhaps to pick Stevens Point also because of the responsibility of the people who would be in charge of the archive. He said he'll get the original letter out and think it over. I suggested that he might want to write to you.

He may not want to part with this tuff now and he seemed to think it might not have all that value except as records pertaining to the early days of electronic media reporting, and I suggested that he had no way of knowing what other records would be made more valuable by them and vice versa. He saw that.

I don't know if you people would want these things for your branch or if you'd prefer that the society exercise its desire, so I thought I'd get a good word in for you, leaving you the options you otherwise would not have.

Unlike so many reporters, who get hardened and jaundiced, George is a good human being. I have a high personal regard for him and his reporting. I'm sure his notes and other records of the early days in Korea would be dependable and valuable.

In talking to him I explained that Wisconsin is among the most prestigious in historical matters. I also told him that he can learn this for himself.

If his records are still wanted and if as I think is possible he agrees to their deposit, it may be possible, through him, to reach other reporters.

By the way, I also told him that you are an authentic Asia expert.

Good luck!

Harold Weisberg